MONTEREY NEWS

May 2016

Est. 1970 Vol. XLVI · Number 5

The Town

by Stephen Moore

Notes on select board meetings from March 21 through April 11.

The New Transfer Station

Bids were opened for construction of the new transfer station. There were two separate requests for bids—one for the forming and pouring of concrete walls, another for construction of a shed for the attendants and to cover the compactors. There were four bids for the concrete work and three for the carpentry. Other work not included in the bids was excavation and materials (gravel), electrical, compactors, asphalt, final grading, and landscaping. The excavation work will be done under the annual equipment and materials bid (currently awarded to Tryon Construction). Director of operations Shawn Tryon, in his role as contractor for the town, will call for bids for the general electrical work. Costs have been received for new compactors, which include the necessary electrical service work, but the compactors may also be rented.

Tryon subsequently made a recommendation to the select board on the bids for building the new transfer station. He anticipates that the total cost for all the work will be $332,625. Adding a 5% contingency brings the total to $350,000—the maximum acceptable to the board. The board is pleased that all the contractors are relatively local.

See the photo on page 3 of the initial site work completed during April.

Transfer Station Operations

Ben Pak and Beth Parks, two of the town employees who are attendants at the transfer station, came in to discuss changes in the operation. Many varied topics were discussed.

Some non-profit organizations have claimed that they should not be charged for leaving certain items because of their non-profit status. The board said that non-profit status does not change the need to pay fees as everyone else does.

Trash haulers sometimes bring in unsorted trash, but the town requires that all households recycle. The attendants need guidance for whether to accept unsorted refuse.

Haulers are required to display a transfer station sticker. Their Monterey customers must also purchase stickers, and the haulers are required to provide a list of who their Monterey customers are.

Bulky waste is still a huge issue, but it has gotten better. Select board member Kenn Basler stated that last summer six to seven bulky waste containers were being hauled out every month, costing the town $10,000 to $11,000 per month. This situation has improved due to several factors, including vigilance on the part of the attendants, and the initial institution of some fees. Restrictions on the dumping of bulky waste will be instituted on May 1.

After the conversation with the attendants, the board decided to reverse the cut in hours. Basler, speaking with two different area haulers, learned that they consider staffing the most significant factor in working with transfer stations. If there is money to be saved, it should be in other areas of the operation (especially with

Mary Kate Jordan

Jack's a dependable sort, but he's shy. Nevertheless, he should be back in the Berkshires again, ready to greet us by the end of the month. He's one expression of our dependable earth, who also depends on us. Welcome back, Jack! —Mary Kate Jordan (See her essay, "Our Dependable Earth," on page 22)

policy over construction debris) which require attention by the attendants.

The town is introducting a much more detailed chart of costs for leaving different types of waste effective May 1, and has voted to increase the annual dump sticker to $70. (See page 26.)

New Fire Truck

KME, a manufacturer of fire apparatus based in Pennsylvania, has a specialized truck with both a ladder and a pump for sale. This truck has been used as a demo, and has been driven for the past two years to departments and conventions. While it has 37,000 road miles, it has virtually no hours on the pumps and other equipment. Chief Tryon said that the road miles are of no concern as the local trucks accrue very little road mileage. The twenty-year old Engine #1 which is being replaced has only has 10,000 miles. This is a more valuable, better equipped truck that KME is offering for sale at a large discount. The cost might be equivilent to replacing the twenty-year-old pumper with another similarly equipped pumper. The fire company had the truck over a weekend to evaluate it.

The finance committee has moved away from recommending using stablization funds to partially fund the purchase of a new fire truck. Interest rates are as favorable as they will ever be, so retaining the stabilization money will prove more beneficial when borrowing becomes more expensive, so they recommend borrowing for the full amount of the purchase. The next major fire department capital expense will not be until 2023, by which time it is likely that this year's truck purchase will be almost paid for.

Town Administrator

The board had initially agreed to put $35,000 in the warrant to provide salary money should a town administrator be hired during the coming fiscal year. Town counsel suggested that they put in $1 to create the line item, but cautioned against putting in an amount higher than that. The point was made that it might take a long process to find and hire an administrator, and that the salary might be larger or smaller than the warrant provides. At the time, the finance committee agreed to the $1 suggestion, but at a later meeting clearly favored the addition of the $35,000. They felt that as it was unlikely that someone would be hired to work more than a partial year, this amount should suffice for the purpose of negotiating salary and hiring. A shortfall could still be made up from free cash.

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

Salaries and Fees

The board is taking a comprehensive look at all salaries and fees to bring transparency to compensations, and to conform with department of revenue standards.

Town Fees

The board is moving toward greater transparency on fees collected within the town. The tax collector has agreed to turn over all fees collected to the town. The tax collector's salary will be increased to match the average fee income over the past three years. The board has spoken with the town clerk, and a similar arrangement is to be made there. Both of these will be reflected in the town budget, but have no actual financial impact. The MA Department of Revenue (DOR) is very much supportive of handling fees this way.

Building inspection fees are going to be handled in a different fashion, by establishing revolving funds. The inspection fees are to pay the cost of the inspectors. The salary of the building commissioner will not change, as he does considerably more than just inspections.

Board of Health

John Makuc, chair for the board of health, came in to discuss the costs related to the board of health operations. The select board is concerned that the general level of activity on the part of the board of health has substantially reduced, with only six to eight permits a year and very few board of health meetings. They noted that the town has been paying health inspector Peter Kolozdiej the same $23,000 salary that they were paying when there was much more activity. Makuc said that he has spoken with Kolozdiej, and he has agreed to a 20% cut. Makuc said that Kolozdiej has been an important asset for the town and suggested that if they lower his salary more than the 20%, they'd risked losing him as health agent. Select board chair Scott Jenssen spoke in support of Kolozdiej, saying, "He is the voice of reason. He's very rational in situations..." and always supports finding workable solutions.

The board agreed to lowering the salary to $19,000, which is a cut slightly less than 20%.

Town Clerk and Salary

The town clerk has agreed that the position takes less than twenty hours per week. This means that the town is not

Camp Half Moon
Celebrating 90 Amazing Summers on Lake Buel
Sleepover & Day Camp
Boys & Girls Ages 3 to16
Flexible Sessions
Heated Pool Skate Park High Ropes
Gymnastics Zip-Line Tennis Sailing
Team Sports Dance Crafts Pottery Waterskiing Judo Archery Rocketry Golf
Yoga Camping & so much more!
info@camphalfmoon.com
www.camphalfmoon.com
Call 888 528 0940
Come Join the Fun!

required to provide health insurance and other benefits.

Admin. Assistant—Clerk Duties

It was noted that Melissa Noe, the administrative assistant for the town, also clerks for a number of boards, including the conservation commission (Con Com), the board of health, and the zoning board of appeals (ZBA), and has been supporting the highway department some. The select board questioned how she is paid. She said that she is paid a small stipend for the work she does for the board of health (minutes, mail, permits, etc.) Her Con Com payments come out of money collected in fees—no tax dollars pay for this. ZBA meetings, which begin during her regular business hours, sometimes run into after-hours. She receives comp time for the after-hours time.

She pointed out that a change was made in the compensation for clerking fees prior to her being hired. The previous assistant was paid a flat salary that including these clerking responsibilities. The salary arrangement was changed to provide more transparency and to permit boards flexibility to hire who they wish. She is not paid any extra as a result of this arrangement.

Stephen Moore

The new transfer station initial excavation and site work was completed by Tryon Construction during the third week in April. The open field pictured at center-right is a Gould Farm field on the far side of Gould Road. The elevated areas are for vehicles, and the lower areas for the compactors and dumpsters. The town anticipates the concrete forms to be assembled in place by mid-March.

Fire Inspection

Fire chief Shawn Tryon is the town fire inspector, which is a separate role from being fire chief. The state has instituted a $50 cap on fire inspection fees, which is generally not nearly fair enough. Tryon reports having to inspect every residence prior to a sale (among other inspections) and often travels to make inspections. If the house to be sold is vacant, he is required to return another time. Some inspections on large homes can take several hours. Some organizational properties involving multiple buildings require regular inspections, according to safety regulations, and these can take a long time. The board is searching for ways to compensate Tryon for his time as fire inspector above the $50 cap. They have asked him to keep a record of his work as fire inspector for the coming year to help determine how to properly compensate his time.

Broadband

Monica Webb, chair of WiredWest, and a resident of Monterey, came to the board to answer questions and describe the current situation. She said that MBI's objections to the WiredWest plan are based on opinions, not on facts or professional analysis. It is clear to WiredWest that the state is pushing towns toward individual network solutions because this would generate more revenue for the state, paid for by higher subscription costs. She said that the middle mile project, bringing fiber optic networks to all the small towns in western Massachusetts, went way over budget, and the state is looking for ways to recover from this. Individual town networks would require a disproportionately greater amount of transit expense through the middle mile portion of the system, which would generate much more revenue for the state. With a regional network, much of the transit

Christopher J. Tryon
& Associates
DBA:
Berkshire Geo-Technologies
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Perc Testing
Septic Design
Sewer & Water System Design
Residential & Commercial Site Design
Drainage Design
Structural Evaluation & Design
Retaining Wall Design
Foundation Design
Construction Layout
Driveway Design & Permitting
Scenic Mountain Act Permitting
Wetland Permitting
Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction Materials (Concrete & Soils)

441 Main Road
P.O. Box 61
Monterey, MA 01245
413-429-4888
berkshiregeotech@gmail.com

Christopher Blair
DESIGN AND PLANNING
Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design
Construction Management
Project Representation
413.528.4960 17 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230

needs would be met within the network, thus relying much less on the middle mile system, and resulting in lower revenue for the state in the range of 20% to 40%. She said that this differential also applied to the materials and build-out costs between the higher cost of individual town networks and the lower costs of a regional solution.

Addressing the demands that individual town networks would place on the towns, she said, "You can outsource ISP [internet service providers] contracts and network maintenance, but you can't outsource the business decisions. The MLP [municipal lighting plant, which would own the town network] board, currently the select board, has to make these decisions." This would be burdensome to the town's managers.

Larry Klein, Monterey's alternative representative to WiredWest, had previously come to a select board meeting to report on an action that WiredWest planned to take, asking select boards of the WiredWest towns to write to the governor directly to request that MBI release the funds allocated to the last mile solution in their towns. He notified the board of a meeting the following weekend, to take place in Northampton, for the purpose of drafting a letter for all the boards. Select board member Steven Weisz did attend that meeting, and would be drafting a letter for the board to consider sending.

Webb urged the select board to send a letter to the governor's office, in conjunction with the other towns, to request that MBI release the funds.

Weisz also reported on meeting with select board members from New Marlborough, Tolland, and Sandisfield to discuss the possibility of a smaller regional network. The money earmarked by the state for last-mile construction is available regardless of how the network gets constructed.

Broadband Committee

The select board is forming a committee to address the broadband needs of the town. Work shall include assessing the installation and operational options for a broadband network; meeting with providers and consultants; assessing offerings, costs and timelines and making recommendations to the select board. This will be a working committee and may require travel for site visits and meetings. Applicants with specific expertise in telecommunications and engineering are encouraged to apply. In an effort to avoid conflicts-of-interest, the board asks that individuals with a fiduciary interest in a broadband provider do not apply. Please contact Steven Weisz at steve@montereyma.gov if interested.

Stabilization Funds

The finance committee is strongly in favor of increasing the annual contribution to the general stabilization fund, suggesting $150,000 for the next two or more years. The fund currently stands at $660,000, and the DOR suggests that we have a fund of $1.5 million. The committee feels that a fund in the neighborhood of $1 million should suffice. This is the only "savings" account the town has, and is a tool in helping to manage the town's debt liability. The DOR recommends that debt service does not exceed 10% of the budget. The town is also hoping to establish a separate stabilization fund for roads, bridges and culverts, beginning with $30,000 in the 2017 budget.

Proposition 2 1/2

Proposition 2 1/2 essentially limits towns to budget increases of no more than 2.5%, not including the taxable value of new growth (this is admittedly a simplification). The last time that Monterey voted to override Proposition 2 1/2, and thereby permanently increase its levy limit, was nine years ago. The board realizes that an override is unavoidable this year. Assessor Don Clawson said he'd seen a map recently that showed that 100% of towns in Massachusetts had tax rate increases for FY 2016. There were towns, especially in the eastern part of the state, where those increases were 20% and more. Monterey falls in the group with the lowest tax increase, in the 3 to 5% range.

School Budget

The finance committee unanimously rejects the proposed Southern Berkshire

Barnbrook
www.BarnbrookRealty.com

DAGMAR KUBES
Broker Associate, ABR
★
Superior Real-Estate Service tailored to your needs.
★
413 528-6485
E-mail: dagmarrealty@verizon.net

SELL * BUY * RENT

Regional School District (SBRSD) budget, citing a lack of due diligence on the part of the school committee, and the unknown factors (such as whether Sheffield will make good on the underassessment from last year). The select board unanimously agrees that they cannot support the budget as presented, for the same reasons. Select board chair Scott Jenssen says the SBRSD board needs to hear from all the towns that they need to "do better." There is a good chance that all five towns in the district may, for the first time ever, vote down the budget. Jenssen also said, "The SBRSD should hear that Monterey, the town that has never voted against the school budget, is doing so now."

The increase in this year's SBRSD budget is a principal factor driving the need to vote a Proposition 2 1/2 override.

Community Center

The board had a lengthy discussion with the finance committee as to whether the request by the Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House for an additional $40,000 to finish the project should be placed on the town warrant for town meeting, or should be presented to the town as a citizens' petition. The board decided that a citizens' petition would be a better route. Scott Jenssen made a strong suggestion that the Friends should find an experienced contractor to make a detailed cost estimate of the work remaining, taking into account the work that can be accomplished by volunteer labor.

Conservation Commission Needs New Members

The conservation commission performs a valuable and vital function for the town of Monterey by protecting the wetland areas of our town.

Wetland resource areas provide critical habitat to wildlife and help maintain the aesthetic beauty of our town. They also provide priceless yet "free" services, including:

- Drinking water purification
- Groundwater recharge
- Flood control
- Pollution prevention

The Massachusetts Conservation Commission Act, passed in 1957, authorized each town in Massachusetts to establish a locally appointed municipal agency to plan for natural resource protection, acquire important land and water areas, and manage these properties for conservation and passive recreation. Permitting for any development project begins with the conservation commission.

The conservation commission is accepting letters of interest from residents to fill a vacancy on the commission for a three-year term. The commission meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m.

Residents willing to serve are encouraged to send a letter of interest, either by email to admin@montereyma.gov or by regular mail to Monterey Conservation Commission, PO Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245.

Need Help? Want to Work?

The *Monterey News* will publish a list in the May, June, and July issues of young people (going into high school and older) who would like to work in the area this summer.

If you would like to be included, send an email to MontereyNews9@gmail.com. Include your name, a brief description of the type of work you'd be willing to do (anything, cooking, outside work, cleaning, babysitting, dog walking, etc.), and your phone number. We will not publish ages or email addresses, and you must have parental permission (up to age 18) to have a listing published.

Marya Makuc 413-429-7482 (cell)

The main service I offer is babysitting. I am Red Cross-certified in babysitting and CPR/AED with extensive experience. I am known to be a reliable and enthusiastic sitter who loves to have fun with your children while respecting your routines. Other services include: light housekeeping, packing assistance, organizing, tutoring for students through eighth grade, basic computer skills assistance (including social media and website design), and grocery shopping.

Paintings In and Out:
Richard Kimball
April 29 - June 4
Reception: Saturday, April 30, 6-7:30pm
KNOX GALLERY
Monterey Library
Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

IN 2015, BERKSHIRE PROPERTY AGENTS BROUGHT THE BUYERS TO 9 OF THE 17 RESIDENTIAL SALES IN MONTEREY.* PLEASE LET US HELP YOU SELL YOUR HOME.
12 RAILROAD ST
GREAT BARRINGTON MA
BERKSHIRE PROPERTY AGENTS.COM
413 528 6800
*BASED ON BERKSHIRE BOARD OF REALTORS FIGURES

Fire Company or Fire Department

A Distinctive Difference

If you are in need of fire or emergency services, it doesn't really matter what you call us—or when. We will be there. But for those of us serving the town—and many others at town hall—there is a difference between the fire company and the fire department. The distinction is important. This article will try to explain those differences and why they are important to those we serve, and to the town.

The Fire Company

Like many towns in western Massachusetts, fire and emergency services in Monterey are not full municipal organizations like the town highway or police departments are. The Monterey Fire Company is a non-profit [501(c) 3] membership corporation. The fire company contracts with the Town of Monterey to provide, operate, and maintain facilities to house the town-owned fire equipment. It also contracts to provide fire and emergency services to the town. The fire company recommends maintenance and replacement of the town-owned fire equipment.

The fire company provides and maintains facilities for fire and first responder training. It assures that the fire personnel are properly trained and certified to provide fire, emergency, and medical services. It hosts training and educational programs for the firefighters in Monterey and, occasionally, adjoining towns. The company's office space is used to manage the paperwork and computer storage requirements for record keeping on employee training, equipment maintenance, inspections, and other state and federal reports.

The fire company is the management tool required for the fire department to function smoothly and efficiently.

Fire Company Finances

Operating income for the fire company facilities has historically come from three sources:

- Public funding through donations—about $25,000 annually
- the annual steak roast revenue—about $10,000 per year,
- a lease of $17,000 per year for the use of company facilities to the town—which pays, in part, for utilities. It also pays for rental of the firehouse for town activities such as town meetings and elections.

There is no compensation to the fire company members for their time, labor, or expertise in managing fire department equipment, personnel, and record keeping. These funds basically pay for the upkeep and maintenance of the firehouse, pavilion, and grounds. Utilities, office supplies, and computer services also come out of these funds.

Fire Department

The Monterey Fire Department is comprised of the select board-approved firefighters, who are town employees when they are on calls or in training. The department also uses the town-owned fire trucks, safety gear, clothing, emergency response equipment, and supplies housed in the firehouse for both training and responding to emergency calls.

Fire department employees are expected to attend weekly two-hour training sessions and to respond to a minimum number of calls—depending on availability. EMT, first responder, and firefighter training is made available to department employees and is required to maintain proficiency.

Emergency calls come in by personal pager. The fire department is an "on-call" department and is expected to respond at any time, year-round. The department also has "mutual aid" agreements with other southern Berkshire fire departments, requiring us to respond to their towns when needed.

Fire Department Finances

The town has historically supported the fire department in four ways:

- Operating expense—about $53,000 per year—covering truck maintenance, fire hose, tools, medical supplies, and personal protective gear
- Compensation for calls—about $60,000 annually—paid directly to the firefighters as compensation for the time they spend on calls, which average around 120 per year

TKG The Kinderhook Group
Christine Martin
Real Estate Sales Agent
(413) 717-7217
10 Elm Street,
Stockbridge, MA
Representing
Buyers & Sellers
Serving the Berkshires, Hudson Valley,
Albany Capital Region, and Litchfield Hills
www.tkgre.com

SARAH JACKSON MFA, MA
JUNGIAN ANALYSIS & PSYCHOTHERAPY
Is your self-judgment interfering with your life?

"The most terrifying thing is
to accept yourself completely".
C.G. Jung
psychotherapy.sarahjacksonmfa.com
psycheisimage@gmail.com
413.528.1135

- Compensation for training—about $30,000 annually—to pay the firefighters for their training time. The fire department holds training and drills every Wednesday night from 7 to 9 p.m. at the firehouse.
- The town also makes purchases of equipment, e.g., fire trucks, new turn-out gear, etc., which are budgeted for through the town budget process.

Company and Department Links

The fire company provides the management of space where the town-owned equipment is housed, and provides for the maintenance, testing, and readiness of all the firefighting equipment so that, when called upon, the fire department can respond without delay.

The fire company is comprised of members who are also employees of the fire department. The company annually nominates qualified members as employees of the fire department for approval by the select board.

The company assures that firefighters are properly trained and certified in firefighting, EMT, and first responder skills. It manages training programs for all department employees.

The company provides management resources for the department so that adequate housing, utilities, office resources, and record-keeping support are provided. The department depends on the volunteer support of the company to effectively respond to emergency calls.

The New Lease

The Town of Monterey will soon have a new lease with the fire company for the facilities at the firehouse. This lease will increase from $17,000 per year to $47,000 per year—reallocating the $30,000 previously paid to the department employees for training compensation. There is no overall increase in the town budget as a result of this change.

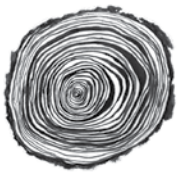
The company hopes the town's residents understand that the fire company's members have chosen to forego their training pay, making this amount of town money available to be applied to the new lease. This money, which formerly paid for training, will now help the company meet its obligation on the $350,000 firehouse construction loan needed to renovate the fire station.

You may ask, "Why not leave it the way it is, with the members just donating their training pay individually?" The answer is that this ends up forfeiting money in the form of federal and state income taxes and social security contributions, which would be withheld from the employee's training compensation or paid by the town. Basically, funding the fire company's expenses through the new lease is financially much more efficient for both the town and the company.

The Monterey Fire Company members always welcome your questions about what we do and how we do it. You can find us at the firehouse every Wednesday night between 7 and 9 p.m. We also welcome your contributions to the Monterey Fire Company at PO Box 99, Monterey, MA, 01245. We are a tax-deductible 501 (c) 3 company.

—Shawn Tyron, Fire Chief
President, Monterey Fire Company
and all our members

SKY VIEW FARM
micro-forestry & native lumber production



- cultivate your woods like a garden -
Sky View Farm specializes in harvesting and milling lumber from your own land for your own use.
MA licensed lumber producer
Will & Amelia Conklin | 413 229 2992
203 Galvin Farm Trail, Sheffield

Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

ABC
Allentuck Building Company
Licensed & Insured Carpentry Services
in Southern Berkshire County
Home Repair Made as Simple as ABC
Josh Allentuck:
413-329-6260
Prioritize your home repair needs...
Just say HELP!

Participate and Vote

The Monterey Democratic and Republican Town Committees, speaking with one strong voice, ask all Monterey residents to participate in our upcoming elections.

Town meeting is on May 7, at the firehouse. Come to listen, to be heard, and to vote on the articles of the town warrant.

Vote again Tuesday, May 10, for candidates for the contested offices of select board and tree warden, and for the uncontested candidates for the many other offices that serve the town.

This is democracy at work. Be part of it.

—Pat Salomon, MD, Chair,
Monterey Democratic Town Committee

—Mark Makuc, Chair,
Monterey Town Republican Committee

A Modest Housing Proposal

For the past couple of years the Monterey Planning Board has worked on a zoning bylaw proposal to allow the construction of accessory dwelling units, also sometimes referred to (in a more sexist age) as "mother-in-law apartments." These can be apartments within a dwelling or "tiny houses" near the primary dwelling unit. To keep our terms straight, let's switch to the language recommended by the building commissioner: primary dwelling unit and secondary dwelling unit (instead of accessory dwelling unit).

The benefits of a secondary dwelling unit (SDU) are as varied as the people who build them. From a great place for grandparents to chill while the grandkids rule the main house, to a handy apartment for a care-giver, an apartment for your adult children, a place to rent for the summer, or a place for you to stay while you rent your primary dwelling unit (PDU), the list is pretty much endless.

To build an SDU by right (it still requires a building permit) a lot must have a minimum of two acres and 200 feet of road frontage, and the SDU must be within 100 feet of the primary dwelling unit and may be no larger than 800 square feet. Adequate parking for the two dwellings is also stipulated in the zoning bylaw proposal. Check out the text of the bylaw on the town web site, MontereyMa.gov, under the Public Documents tab, MontereyMA Warrant index.

From our public hearings the planning board understands that this zoning bylaw proposal is not without controversy. Consideration of those concerns led to a better bylaw. We look forward to a lively discussion of the proposal at this year's annual town meeting on Saturday, May 7.

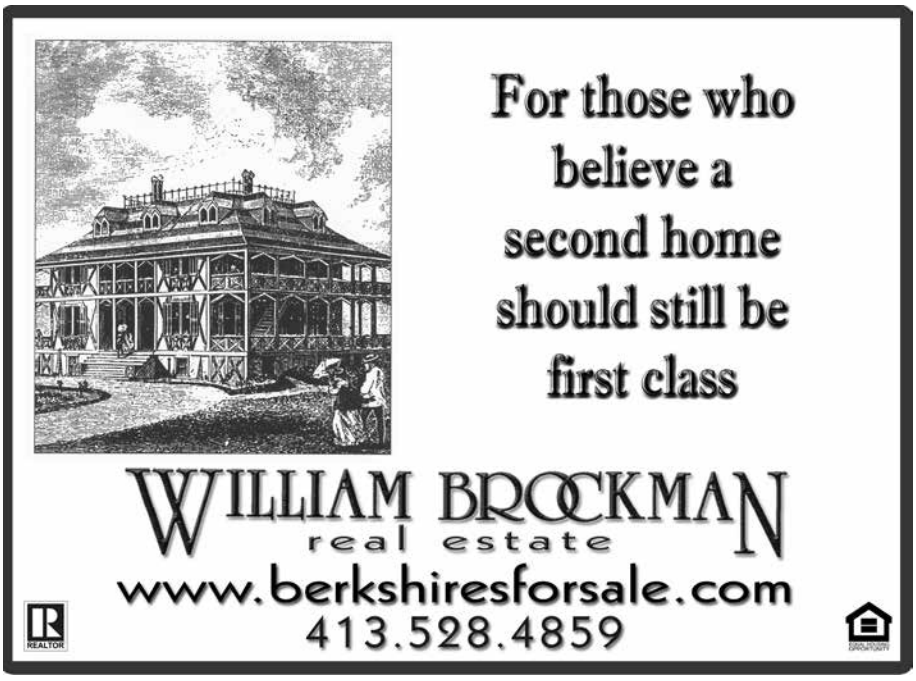
—Maggie Leonard, co-chair
Monterey Planning Board

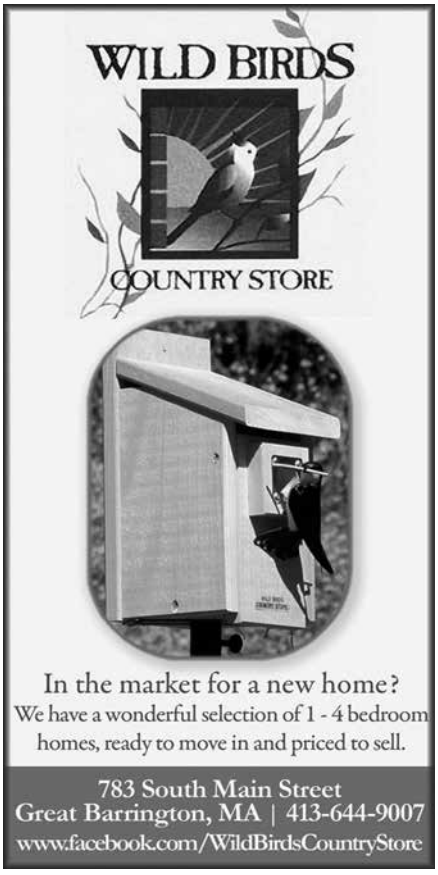
P.O. Box 9

SBRSD Budget Cuts

With the uproar of feedback surrounding the Southern Berkshire Regional School District budget fiasco, the only opinion which has not been heard yet is the students'. Yes, saving taxpayer money is a valid reason to push for cuts, but how much of the students' education will be sacrificed to do so?

As enrollment continues to decline in the district, it is hard to justify as many programs and staff members. Superintendent Dave Hastings told Mt. Everett's *Bold Eagle* newspaper, "If we are forced to make cuts, this would result in cuts in people and programs. There is just nowhere else to go." This could mean eliminating electives and smaller classes. For sophomore Lily Duval, "Without [smaller classes], we are more similar to a herd of sheep than a pack of dogs who can choose what to do." These classes of only four or five are important to students who may feel too shy for larger classes. According to sophomore James Gulotta, "Smaller classes offer more one-on-one time."




WILD BIRDS
COUNTRY STORE
In the market for a new home?
We have a wonderful selection of 1 - 4 bedroom homes, ready to move in and priced to sell.
783 South Main Street
Great Barrington, MA | 413-644-9007
www.facebook.com/WildBirdsCountryStore

Vocational studies, including the agriculture, culinary, and woodworking programs, have shaped the image of Mt. Everett. Students come to Mt. Everett to have these opportunities, which prepare them for later on in life. Many alumni who took advantage of these programs at from Mt. Everett found themselves prepared for college and later careers. Samantha Hoover, of the Class of 2015, graduated Mt. Everett after spending much of her time working in the agriculture program. Now, Hoover is looking to apprentice with a beef farmer and to "give back to the community."

Many students believe that these programs are a necessity. Junior Cherokee Rice says that the administration would "lose the respect of so many kids" if they take away these programs. Other students imagine how school would be without these opportunities to take courses that interest them. Senior Paige Smith says, "Without having [the agriculture program], I wouldn't want to come to school," while for others, like senior Matt Spencer, these electives make school "slightly more bearable."

The consequences of reducing the budget are straightforward: there will be fewer programs and opportunities for the youth of this school district—the future of this town.

—Marya Makuc

Article 27

To see if the Town will vote to ban the use of beaver traps.

P.O. Box 9

Beaver Trapping Article 27

I am writing to address article 27 on the town warrant which concerns the banning of beaver traps in Monterey. This, I feel, is an attempt to use grant money that is available to towns or private land owners to control the flooding caused by beaver by installing water-flow devices. In order to get the grant money, beaver trapping has to be banned, in this case, by the town. Beaver trapping is controlled by the state.

A second issue with the article banning beaver traps—does this mean the restricted body gripper traps, or does it include the approved cage-type traps? The way the article reads, it would include all traps.

As a private property owner, I feel I should be able to control the beaver the way I need to, within the laws of the state. If this ban is approved, the board of heath will be powerless to issue an emergency ten-day permit for beaver trapping if your well is contaminated by flooding caused by beaver. I urge a "No" vote on article 27.

Thank you.

—Dale Duryea

If the Town of Monterey were to ban the use of beaver traps, within a year the driveway between my house and my barn would be covered with water after even a modest ½" to 1" rainstorm. During a bigger rain event or snowmelt, I would not be able to travel between my house and my barn. Emergency vehicles would not be able to reach my house.

The trapping of beavers does not eradicate all beavers and the rich habitat they create. It is the only way to keep their numbers under control on my stretch of the Rawson Brook and a number of other places in town that have potential for a dense beaver population and where the beaver excluders and deceivers (that some folks claim is the solution) will not work successfully.

From where I sit, it is hard not to compare the banning of beaver traps with the banning of mousetraps.

Please vote "No" on article 27.

—Susan Sellew
Rawson Brook Farm

Refer to Massachusetts General Law—Part 1, title XIX, Chapter 131, Section 80A for regulations on trapping fur-bearing animals, or search "MGL Beaver trapping."

Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us this month to hear:
Local historian Bernie Drew:
Devanny's Bluff, Firestone Quarry, and how the Appalachian Trail "crept" into Monterey.

See the community potluck supper article on page 24.

3rd Wednesdays, October–May
6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Monterey Church

For more information,
call Kyle Pierce, 528-9213

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER
5 HAMMERTOWN RD, SANDISFIELD, MA ♦ 413-258-4100
INFO/TICKETS: SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG
SAT, MAY 7 / 4PM - $10
WRITING OUT LOUD: A PERFORMANCE-BASED REVISION WORKSHOP PRESENTED BY THE BERKSHIRE FESTIVAL OF WOMEN WRITERS. Co-hosted by local authors Courtney Maum and Hallie Goodman. Bring one page of writing you're prepared to read out loud and workshop in a group.
SAT, MAY 21 / 10AM - Donation
SANDISFIELD'S HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT HOMES. Discussion led by local historian Ron Bernard, and consultant to the Sandisfield Historical Commission, Bonnie Parsons
SAT, MAY 21 / 6PM - $75
SPRING DINNER & BENEFIT AUCTION! Cocktails at 6, followed by a 3-course dinner and auction! Advance ticket purchase required - order online by May 7th.
Funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Local Cultural Councils
MAY

Article 20

To see if the Townwill vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $40,000 or any other sum for the renovation of the Wilson-McLaughlin House at 469 Main Road, or take any other action relative thereto.

P.O. Box 9

Support the Community Center

We are writing to urge support for Article 20 in support of the Monterey Community Center.

It is likely that a relatively small percentage of Monterey residents have checked out the project in the past year or two, which is too bad, because so much has happened. If you still have in mind the older house, that leaned some this way and the other way, that is not what you will find now. The building now is plumb and sturdily square. The walls are rigid panels with dense foam cores. The roof is tight and well insulated, as is the foundation. Work has been done so both floors are wide open with no posts to obstruct the use. There is a handicap accessible bathroom close to being finished, and a small kitchenette. The windows are all new and very energy efficient.

But it's not done. There is still a fair amount of interior finish work to be done. Ask anyone who has built a house and they'll tell you the work slows down and becomes costly. The fiber cement exterior siding needs to be purchased and installed, and while not inexpensive, it is a very durable, low maintenance exterior treatment.

When the town accepted the Wilson-McLaughlin house, they agreed to a stipulation to maintain the house in good condition. But once it was decided that it wouldn't be used as a town hall, the town lost interest and did not do as they had agreed in so far as keeping up with the building. The Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House decided to organize and work to meet the town's legal obligation, and they've done a fabulous job so far.

Less than 20% of the money for the project has come from the town—the balance has come largely from donations, some from events, and one grant. The Friends estimate that 90% of the work and the cost is done. Over half of the money spent would have been required regardless of the end use, meaning that this is money the town would likely have had to spend just to meet its commitment to Edith Wilson's bequest.

The Friends came to the town for money a few years before, hoping that they wouldn't need to ask again. In the meantime, the architect and the engineers mandated some very costly work. A forest of posts in the basement, a pair of heavy steel suspension bridges to hang the second floor, a full four-foot deep frost wall to support the mudroom and ramp. Had the town put the entire project out to bid, these things might have been anticipated, but the cost would have been much higher. The volunteer labor that men and women have been providing for a long time now to re-create the building would have had to have been "prevailing wage" costs.

This request for money is a good deal for the town no matter how you view it, but the building will serve many purposes. It is a municipal property, so would be fully legal for any town committees or boards to hold warned meetings there. It is a comfortable, accessible, lovely space for various activities by the VNA or the Council on Aging. It will be useful as a space for classes and workshops and gatherings of all sorts. And without doubt, people will realize that it is a very nice space to rent for family and group events. The coffee club might even cast a wandering eye at it.

Please support this project. The $40,000 request would add 8 cents to the tax rate, so if you own an average value home, you might pay an additional $30 for one year.

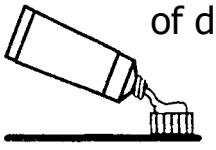
Thank you.

—Rob and Cindy Hoogs
—Laurie and Gary Shaw
—Maggie Leonard
—Stephen Moore and Wendy Jensen
—Roger and Katherine Tryon
—Mary Kate Jordan
—Christine Martin

save your choice items to donate
SATURDAY JULY 16 2016
MONTEREY TAG SALE
Drop off TBA
Monterey Community Center•468 Main Road•Corner of rt 23 & New Marlborough Rd
center@ccmonterey.org info: (413) 528-5134
100% of proceeds to benefit monterey community center

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

Monterey Annual Town Meeting, Saturday, May 7

Article 28
To see if the Town will vote to ban the use of herbicides in and around Lake Garfield and Brewers Pond.

Article 29
To see if the Town will vote to overturn mandated tax from private group targeting deeds with water rights.

P.O. Box 9
No to Articles 28 and 29

The voters of Monterey should not overturn the vote at the February special town meeting, which approved an "act" that would start the process to create a lake district for Lake Garfield, similar the the Lake Buel district that has been in place for over thirty years. Creation of the district shifts the financial burden off the town and on to the lakefront and lake access property owners. This is fairer to the Lake Buel property owners who already shoulder the financial burden for Lake Buel.

Both lakes are state-owned "great ponds," and any projects on the lakes are subject to town conservation commission and state approvals.

The proposed lake district does not have any authority other than collecting assessments from the members of the district (lakefront owners and those with deeded lake access rights). Such districts are not "private" organizations.

Currently the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) raise money voluntarily to maintain the health of the lake. With the recent rapid spread of milfoil in the lake, the ability of the FLG to raise the necessary funds has become inadequate. In 2014 we had to request $15,000 from the voters in Monterey, which they graciously approved. Much more money than this will be required over the next five years if we are to keep the lake healthy.

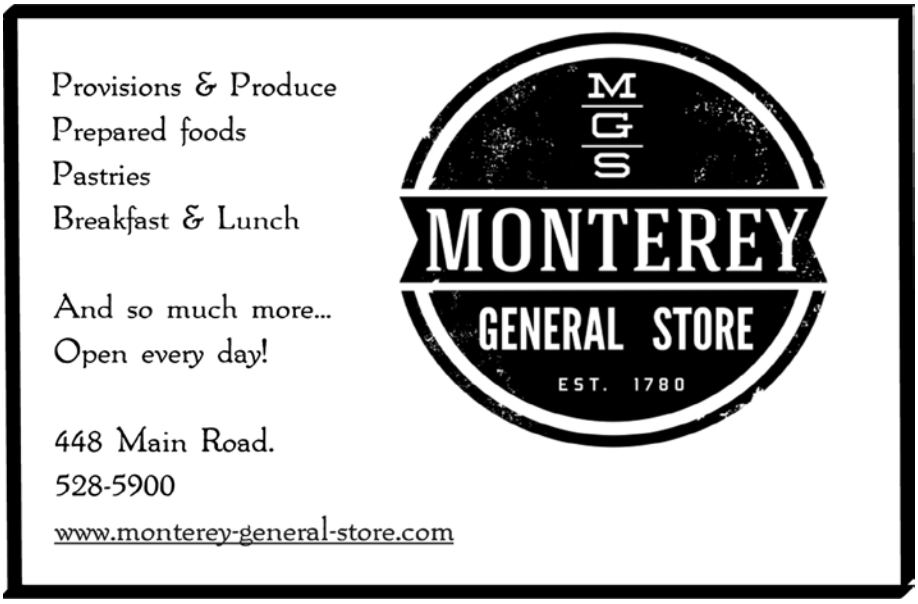
We feel this is a fair way to raise funds and there is no alternative, other than to request funds each year from the town.

If and when the state legislature approves the Act, the members of the lake district will still need to vote by a two-thirds majority of a 50% quorum (present or by proxy) in order for the district to be created.

Each year the members of the district will vote on the budget, how it is to be spent, and who their representatives will be on the prudential committee.

The Act that was forwarded last month to Representative Pignatelli's office was modeled on the Lake Buel district Act, with language that is required by the state. It must be written in this way for approval by the state department of revenue and the legislature.

—Michael Germain
The Friends of Lake Garfield



Monterey Election Day

May 10 Town Election Slate

The year's election for town officers will be held on Tuesday, May 10, not on town meeting day. Polls will be open from 12 noon until 7 p.m., at the Monterey firehouse.

Below is the slate for the election. Incumbents are indicated by asterisks. Party affiliation, or independent status, is noted in parentheses for contested seats.

Contested Seats

Select Board (3 years)
Carol Edelman (D)
Michael C. Johnson (I)

Tree Warden (1 year)
Kevin Fitzpatrick (R & D)
Winston Wilson* (I)

Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (5 years)
Stan Ross*

Board of Assessors (3 years)
Stan Ross*

Board of Health (3 years)
Julio Rodriguez

Cemetery Commission (3 years)
Mary Makuc*

Constable (3 years)
Ray Tryon*

Finance Committee (3 years)
Jon Sylbert

Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)
Mickey Jervas*
Lisa Smyle*

Library Trustee (1 years)
John Higgins

Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc*

Parks Commission (3 years, vote for 2)
Julio Rodriquez*
Angelica Collins*

Planning Board (5 years)
Larry Klein*

Planning Board (2 years)
Richard Piepho

Town Treasurer (3 years)
Jennifer Brown

Tax Collector (3 years)
Mari Enoch*

P.O. Box 9

Support for Carol Edelman

Dear Monterey Citizens,

We would like to recommend that you give your vote to Carol Edelman, the democratic party nominee for select board, at our town elections to be held on Tuesday, May 10. Carol has been a full-time resident of Monterey since she moved to her home on Hupi Road in 1981. Having had long term experience living in our town, Carol is aware of the issues that face residents at every phase of life.

Carol is an extremely bright, hard-working, and dedicated member of the community. She was a teacher working in the Southern Berkshire, Northwestern Connecticut, and Lenox public school systems for many years. During that time, she also served the town as member of the board of library trustees. In the mid-'90s, Carol spearheaded the project to get the old metal playground equipment removed from Greene Park and replaced with the much safer wooden structures we now have and which have benefitted many children.

Since retiring from teaching, Carol has used her time to bring her certified therapy dog to local nursing homes for the enjoyment of the elders there. She now has the time and the energy to serve Monterey as a member of the select board. Carol is a thoughtful, progressive, forward thinking, and capable individual, who has the demonstrated ability to work with diverse groups on a wide range of projects.

The town would benefit from having Carol Edelman as a member of the select board.

—Gary and Laurie Shaw

I want to express our complete support for Carol Edelman's decision to run for the select board. In the twenty-one years I have known Carol, she has always been one of the most reasonable, intelligently thinking, and community-minded people of our town.

Way back in 1995 when our oldest son was a baby, Carol saw the need for a better equipped playground. She organized a group of Monterey folks, developed a plan, and with an all-volunteer workforce, new playground equipment was assembled and installed. That is indicative of Carol's care for our town and willingness to put in the time and energy needed to accomplish the task at hand. I also have experienced Carol to be someone who truly listens, without a preconceived agenda of her own, which I believe is a great trait to have in a member of the select board.

All to say, my husband Richard and I are pleased to lend our support to Carol and wish her the best in the election.

Sincerely,

—Diana and Richard Piepho

I hope you will join me in voting for Carol Edelman for the Monterey select board. I have been lucky to be Carol's Hupi Road neighbor for the past sixteen years, and have had many opportunities to spend time with her. I believe that she has the right combination of strength, patience, and determination to be an excellent representative for the people of our town. The select board needs someone who is not only willing to spend the time needed to listen to all sides involved, but they also need someone to be able to stay calm in the face of disagreements. I believe that Carol has all of these qualities and more.

—Franny Huberman

I support Carol Edelman for selectperson. I've known Carol ever since she moved to Monterey. Carol is a very thoughtful person, a great listener, with a smart perspective on things. She cares about the people and going-ons in Monterey, and it would benefit the select board to have her help in the process of deciding on new and present challenges of Monterey.

—Jay Amidon

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Visit MontereyMassLibrary.org

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....2–5 p.m.
Thursday.....4–6 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday..9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

Serving Monterey for over 30 years Call Jay 528-5099

JAY AMIDON PAINTING

Clean, Orderly, and Accommodating
Staining · Painting · Interior · Exterior · Old & New

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Service · 10 a.m.
in the Meeting House

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

For Information and Assistance:
413-528-5850
www.montereychurch.org
Find us on Facebook too.

I am endorsing Carol Edelman for the Monterey select board. She has been a successful business owner, library trustee, and professional educator. She supports the completion and opening of the Monterey Community Center, and keeping our town a small but friendly and thriving community.

Carol has lived in Monterey for thirty-five years and is woven into the fabric of the community as a homeowner. She sent her children to the Monterey School. She and her family have been involved with the Bidwell House Museum, with the Parks and Recreation Department, at the skating rink, and the baseball field. She is a "stakeholder" on many counts and will work hard for what is best for our town.

Carol wants to give back to Monterey and cares about our future. She has the time it takes to be a selectwoman since she is retired. She will do the necessary research. She has the leadership, poise, abilities, and thoughtfulness this position requires.

—Mary Makuc

We are pleased to vote for Carol Edelman for select board. Her long and varied service in Monterey make her well-suited for the job. Add to that her ability to listen, her even temper, and good nature. Vote on Tuesday, May 10, for Carol Edelman.

—Michele Miller and Peter Murkett

Candidate Statements

The *Monterey News* extended an open invitation to any candidates for town offices to submit statements.

Both Michael Johnson and Carol Edelman, select board candidates, have had announcement statements published in recent issues of the *Monterey News*. As a follow-up, both were invited to write second statements directed to town issues. Mrs. Edelman did submit a follow-up statement, while Mr. Johnson did not.

Carol Lewis Edelman

Follow-up Statement

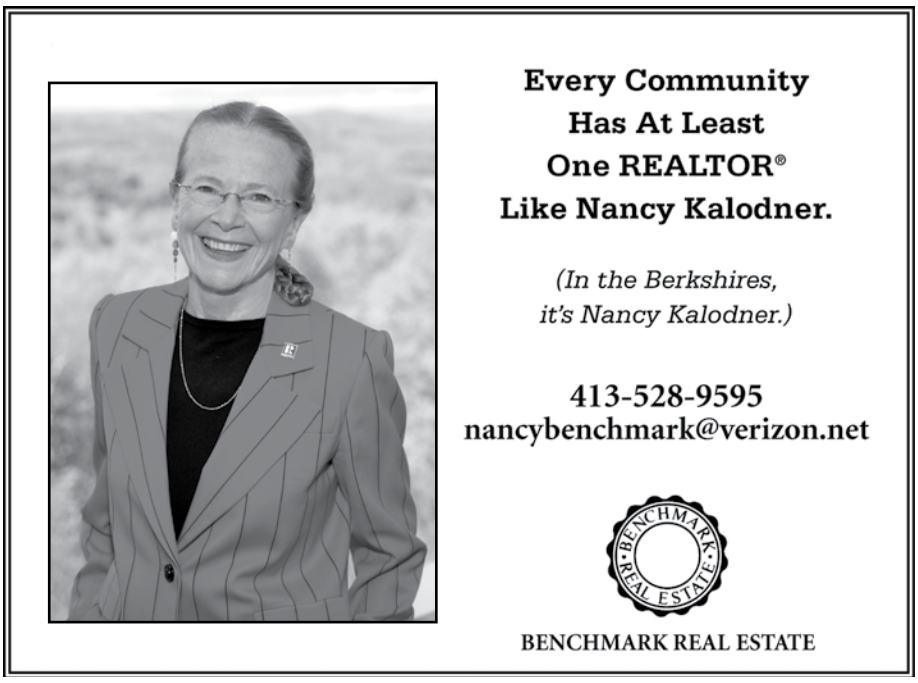
Yes, I still want to be elected select board member in Monterey! In the face of tough challenges presented to the town and its elected officials, I have the skills and experience necessary to help find practical solutions.

I have been attending select board meetings and participating in forums with state legislators and county service providers to learn more about our needs, priorities, and options, including:

- Optimizing educational resources and opportunities for children and families. We must thoroughly examine our participation in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, the future of the Monterey School, and explore all available possibilities.
- Internet access for all. This is a major concern for everyone I've spoken with, business people, families, seniors. The delays have become unacceptable. Let's find a way forward—soon—to guarantee that everyone in town is "lit up."
- Budget. In order to maintain a low, affordable tax rate, we must continuously strive to structure the town budget to meet growing demands with conservative expenditures. Just as I've done over the years managing a household, we must do more with less. Consider shared services, economies of scale, creative solutions.
- Improve communication among town offices, agencies, and town residents.
- Pay attention to the growing proportion of senior residents. We have a special responsibility to the elders, a treasured population in our community. There is growing county-wide awareness, and resources are available. Let's be sure we are making those connections.
- Protect our natural environment, wildlife, lakes, waterways, open space, both for its own sake, and for the quiet enjoyment of residents and visitors.

My background is as a mother, professional public school teacher, business person, administrator, and domestic engineer. I have carefully and successfully managed programs, budgets, teams, schedules, and financial responsibilities. I am fair, practical, well-organized, open-minded, flexible, and most important, an effective problem-solver. If you will elect me to the select board, I am determined to help the people of Monterey deal with difficult situations, while maintaining our fortunate quality of life.

—Carol Edelman



Candidates' Forum
Select Board and Tree Warden

On Saturday, April 16, two dozen or so Monterey residents assembled to hear the views of the two candidates hoping to fill a vacancy in the Monterey Select Board following Scott Jenssen's retirement.

In her opening statement, Carol Edelman mentioned that she was born and raised in New York, living in San Francisco and Washington DC, and finally landed in Monterey thirty-five years ago to start a family and eventually open a successful restaurant in Great Barrington. She believes Monterey to be a "fine community" and said that when she moved here she "knew she was home." Over the years she has helped found the Monterey Land Trust; in her words "envisioned and built" the playground with all volunteer help; and worked with the library, all the while serving as a public school teacher in Lenox. She's now retired and works with therapy dogs and is a tour guide at the Botanical Gardens in Stockbridge.

Mrs. Edelman went on to list some of the key issues as she saw them, which included the importance of communications technology in Monterey, meaning specifically broadband, a still-evolving situation in the town. She talked about the importance of optimizing education, a process that she said is currently at a standstill. She has also been attending board meetings for some time and feels it is important to do everything possible to keep Monterey's low tax rate, to do more with less, improve communication in the town government, and finally strive to make Monterey "a kinder, gentler place." She finished by mentioning the "old Monterey" that she can still remember, and how important it is to preserve the older atmosphere and small town values.

Bonner McAllester

Michael Johnson and Carol Edelman at this year's candidates' forum.

Michael Johnson (known to many as Sergeant Johnson of the Monterey police force) opened by speaking to the importance of keeping the democratic process open to the people. He sketched his employment history, mentioned having lived in Franklin County, MA, for fourteen years, and that he has lived in every county in Massachusetts except Dukes County (Martha's Vineyard) and Nantucket County. He served four years in Navy submarines and stressed the sharpening of his conflict resolution skills in that environment, where the farthest you can get from another person is three hundred feet.

He highlighted his awareness of the tight-knit nature of the Monterey community, pointing out the special nature of the large second-home community here and its beneficial influence on the town budget. He mentioned the complex nature of town issues and the budget, but also expressed appreciation for the work of the select board and the state in governing.

PETER S. VALLIANOS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
✤
413-528-0055
fax: 413-528-6475
email: p.vallianos@verizon.net

30 years experience in Monterey
serving your real estate needs
including purchase and sales,
zoning issues.
Board Member,
Monterey Preservation Land Trust

30 Stockbridge Road (Route 7)
Great Barrington, MA 01230
(Just north of Belcher Square)

After their opening statements, the candidates were asked two questions, which they had received several days beforehand. Moderators Liz Goodman and Stephen Moore took turns asking the questions.

Experience

The town's budget, approximately $3.7 million, involves a complex combination of several different types of funds, which have very specific applications and restrictions. In addition, each department makes detailed funding requests for the coming year. There are also many players in forming the budget, including mostly elected and some appointed persons, and it is also impacted by the regional school district budget. What experiences have you had that you feel prepare you to effectively manage this complex and critical town process?

Mrs. Edelman talked about her experience in private business and the managing of every aspect of her restaurant. In her life as a teacher she did some grant writing, and managed budgets. Her home management, she felt, had a profound impact on her feelings about budgeting, and she is a strong advocate for living within one's means and, above all, not borrowing. She has been attending select board meetings since February, admires the job the finance committee does, and if elected intends to follow her own dictum, "Pay attention and do the work."

Mr. Johnson told the crowd, again, that "people run the town," not the members of the select board, who are merely like "department heads." He talked about capital management plans that need to take into account the fact that things wear out and need to be replaced, and that despite $200 million of state roads-and-bridges money, New Marlborough still has five closed bridges. Monterey is lucky, he feels, to have relatively little infrastructure, and it is within the realm of possibility that things may continue to be maintained with the help of the select board and the state.

Town Governance, Part One

At the February special town meeting, there were articles asking the town to make three town offices (clerk, treasurer, and tax collector) appointed rather than elected. The town, as represented by approximately seventy voters, chose to keep these offices elected. What are your thoughts as to whether all, or individual, offices should continue to be elected, or should be changed to appointed?

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the town had voted on this issue and made its decision at the recent special election. He is not in favor of town hall appointments because they give power to the select board and remove it from the people, as well as add to the select board workload.

Mrs. Edelman agreed with Mr. Johnson. She said that the "will of the people" was clearly on the side of keeping elected positions but pointed out that if only one person is running for a position, then they are in fact not technically elected, but self-appointed. Despite the paradox this poses, overall she stands by the town's decision.

Town Governance, Part Two

The question of hiring a part-time town administrator is still in front of the voters. The current board debated including a budget line item for salary money for a half-time town administrator. Do you feel that the town needs an administrator?

Mrs. Edelman was aware of other nearby towns hiring administrators and felt that, most of all, care needed to be taken to thoroughly delineate the position. If the town ultimately decided not to hire an administrator, she felt that the town would be capable of finding its way without one.

Mr. Johnson explained that in the last town meeting the vote was in favor of hiring an administrator. He said that the town needs a professional in the town hall, and mentioned advertising the position in state publications for people familiar with municipal law and finance.

WE GROW THE FUTURE

WEBSTER

design landscape horticulture

1719 North Main Street Sheffield, MA 01257

413-229-8124 websterlandscapes.com

Bottomline Builders

Monterey, MA · (413) 528-1260

We are a detail-oriented, full-service, hands-on contracting and building company located in Monterey, MA. From foundation to finish, we provide the know-how to 'exceed your expectations.' Whether you want a built-in bookcase, a new sunroom, family room, or your new country home, our crew delivers the craftsmanship and courtesy you expect and deserve.

PO Box 567
155 Main Road
Monterey, MA 01245
(413) 528-1260

bottomlinebuilders.com
Scott Jenssen

scott@bottomlinebuilders.net
Massachusetts CSL 62673 - Massachusetts HIC 133864

The next set of questions were sent to the candidates beforehand. A brochure including all the questions as well as the candidates' statements, was available to the audience to follow along.

Lake Garfield Tax District

At a special town meeting in February, voters authorized, but did not require, the select board to forward to the state legislature an act creating a special tax district around Lake Garfield for the purpose of generating funds from lakeside property owners to manage "the health" of the lake. The board has yet to take action, and it may fall to the new board to decide on what action to take. As a potential member of a new select board would you favor sending the act on to the legislature?

Mr. Johnson mentioned that the issue was debated at the latest special town meeting. He clarified that the homeowners owned the lakefront, but that the lake itself was technically a federal resource. The Lake Garfield district, if it were formed, would not take ownership of the lake, but merely maintain it in good health. He said that the vote taken at that meeting was simply to authorize the select board to "decide what to do."

Mrs. Edelman expressed a "discomfort" with the idea of a special class of taxpayer, with the introduction of a "money talks" kind of dynamic in the town, and worried that even those with good intentions could affect the town as a whole. She thought it was important to look into the legalities of such a move. When questioned by an audience member as to the exact nature of her "trepidation" with the special category of taxation, she again talked about the possibility of the people who paid more exercising disproportionate influence and power.

Workload

The select board, as the town's managers, spend a considerable amount of time individually, informally estimated as fifteen or more hours per week outside of their warned open meetings, in discussions with select board members from other towns, in school district meetings, and investigating problems, solutions, etc. regarding a broad variety of town issues. Typically each board member holds the "brief" for certain issues (for example, currently Steve Weisz leads on broadband, Kenn Basler on roads and bridges). Will you be able to devote the substantial time, and on which areas of town affairs would you be most qualified to lead?

Mrs. Edelman expressed her good fortune in being retired and experiencing the "semi-empty nest" syndrome, and said that she has more than enough time. She said that, drawing from her years as a teacher, she would be particularly interested in working on school issues.

Mr. Johnson warned that his answer was going to "stir the pot a little," and felt that in recent months and years the issues in front of the board went beyond the select board member's duties. Further, he thought that the town needed specific commissions, such as a roads commission, and another to resolve what he called the "MBI turmoil" around the advance of fiber optics and broadband in town. He told the audience that he worked an eight-hour shift but was otherwise available.

Town Financing

The current select board, with support of the finance committee, is proposing a large increase in the annual contribution to the stabilization fund, and creating a second stabilization fund for highway uses. Doing this will impact the town tax rate. Should the town be collecting tax monies now to support capital expenses that might be years away?

Mr. Johnson stressed the importance of towns planning ahead for future expenses and developments. For example, he said that the state was even now asking towns to plan for the eventuality of driverless cars, which reminded him of the historical scenario in which, even with the onset of horseless carriages many years ago, nothing was ever done and the streets became "muddy ruts." He spoke to the issue of Route 23 having been surveyed seven separate times for repairs but that no one in all those studies looked at drainage.

Mrs. Edelman brought up the low tax rate in Monterey, which had helped her with her own home "stabilization fund," and in general liked the relatively low-ambition level of the town governance, but also liked the idea of such a fund, and felt that incremental tax increase to support one would be a prudent move.

The Community Center

The Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin Community Center have filed a citizens petition asking the town to raise $40,000 to support the last phase of work on this municipal property, which would lead to the center finally opening for public use and programming. If you are asked at town meeting whether or not you support their petition, what would you say?

Mrs. Edelman said that she's been a contributor and supporter since the beginning, and pointed out the eventual benefits to the town. She also noted that townspeople tended to wonder, "When will it end?" Ideally, she hoped for someone with the resources to do so would step forward to finish it.

Green Arts Gardens
Design - Installation - Maintenance
Ruth Green
Accredited Organic Landscape Professional
Organic Gardens, Cutting Flowers, Vegetable Beds
Please email greengardener86@gmail.com or call 413-528-5908
www.greenartsgardendesign.com

Mr. Johnson's reply was that if the town approves of this particular line item, so be it, it is the people's decision.

School

The school issue is a delicate, and for some, very emotional issue for our town. Just about every town wants to have its own school, but many towns don't have the population to support their own schools, and so larger, regional districts are formed. Financing and managing regional districts is complex, and requires a great deal of political cooperation. What are your thoughts about how Monterey should support our students?

Mr. Johnson felt that the town had an obligation to support students but also had a contract and a budget to sustain school children throughout the entire district, in and of itself a highly debated issue. Above all, children's needs had to be met.

Mrs. Edelman said that the school board problems were large ones. She was shocked to see the financial disarray in the budget presented at a recent select board meeting, where the school committee presented several versions of the overall anticipated bottom line, describing the versions as "What It Ss," "What It Should Be," and "What It Might Be," —scenarios that depended on what might happen in another district town. She mentioned the enormous disparity between, as she put it, what the ideal scenario would be had they gotten the assessments right, and the current reality. She mentioned that a well-paid business manager left recently only to be replace by one getting paid even more, and, finally, that she'd "never seen anything like it." She felt it was the select board's responsibility to veto this budget as it stands. In short, the school situation was "a mess top to bottom."

Audience Questions

Barbara Swann pointed out that other towns had established special tax districts for Lake Buel, and that those towns had "not fallen apart." She then mentioned a "prudential committee" to determine various district identities. Mrs. Edelman conceded that she was not currently well informed enough to comment, and needed to look into it further.

In a response to a question concerning the prospect of a town vote to override Proposition 2 ½, Mrs. Edelman characterized increasing expenditures and taxes as a "rising tide" and wondered if it were possible to permanently resist such a tide. In her opinion, it will in time be necessary to spend more money, and that despite Monterey not having any "excess of services," it was important to keep up the standard of life here, and to also appreciate the very low tax rate the town currently enjoys.

The select board is asking the town to vote on a $500,000 Proposition 2 ½ override, partly to support a more realistic stabilization fund. Mr. Johnson was asked his opinion on this. He responded that the sixty-eight-page Proposition 2 ½ booklet was like trying to "operate a VCR remote," and that the town needed to be grateful for its excellent finance committee, and, further, that a stabilization fund was necessary in the event of any number of possible natural disasters. He personally would support an override, but in the end the people would decide.

Michael Germain once again brought up the issue of the Lake Garfield special tax district, and after discussing minutiae of this act, asked: one, did they support the special tax district, and, two, did the issue demand a revote given that the printed material given the voters at the meeting misrepresented the structure of the lake prudential committee?

Mr. Johnson said that he hadn't read the act but that the prudential committee was only authorized to operate in a way similar to a homeowners' association. He reiterated that all the town meeting vote did was to authorize the state legislature to vote on the issue, and that ultimately the people will decide it.

Mrs. Edelman saw no harm in a second vote, and that it was a question she would ask our town counsel to look into.

Mary Makuc asked the candidates if they would be open to having school-age students come in and participate in school related discussions. Both candidates welcomed the idea.

Steven Weisz asked if, given that being on the board was an ongoing learning experience, would Mr. Johnson complete his term on the board if he were offered another job elsewhere. Mr. Johnson said that he "hadn't gone anywhere yet," despite having received financially advantageous offers in other police departments.

Other Offices

Kevin Fitzpatrick, a candidate for tree warden, was the only other candidate for town office present. Fitzpatrick, a member of the town's highway department, holds a degree in horticulture, and is also a member of the fire department. He sees dead trees all over town posing potential hazards, and believes that "more needs to be done with less." The question put to him was, as tree warden, how would he manage his town job with also being the tree warden? Mr. Fitzpatrick responded that it was a balance of after-work hours and outsider help, as the tree warden has a budget to work with. An audience member clarified that the warden could not hire himself to do contract work.

—Dave Irland

ॐ

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

32 Corser Hill Road
Great Barrington,
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 229-7080
Facsimile: (413) 229-7085
Email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net

May at the Knox Gallery

The work of Berkshire resident Richard Kimball opened at the Knox Gallery at the Monterey Library last week. *Paintings: In and Out* will be on view for the entire month of May, through June 4.

Kimball's abstract fields of color in unexpected combinations subtly reflect landscape and still-life images, which are his starting point. He cites Richard Diebenkorn's work as a significant influence. "I also relate to the work of Nicolas DeStael, Hans Hofmann, Helen Frankenthaler, Clyfford Still, Kenzo Okada, and Georgio Morandi," Kimball reports.

The artist has regularly studied with Arthur Yanoff at IS183 in Stockbridge alongside well-known Monterey resident, Maureen Banner, who comments, "Though he begins by observing his surroundings, Richard jumps off from there, pursuing his own ideas and focusing intensively on color. He establishes the large areas first, then spends what seems like hours trying out little bits of paper to decide on the shapes and colors of accent areas. Eventually he brings in a dash of something smashing. His color usage is extraordinary."

Kimball began painting when he was in high school at Phillips Academy, where he was fortunate to study with an inspiring teacher, Patrick Morgan. He went on to Harvard and studied the only discipline then offered that contained a visual-arts component—architecture. Upon graduation, however, he recognized that practicing architecture was not for him. He embarked on a business career, but continued to paint and study art through all the years. Retirement has given him time to return to his early focus on painting—at last.

Please mark your calendars for our next opening. David Bacharach's sculptures will be on view starting June 10. We hope you will all join us for the opening reception of *A Parliament of Owls, A Conspiracy of Ravens* on June 11, from 6 to 8 p.m.

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours.

Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; @Knox_Gallery on Twitter; Facebook.com/Knox Gallery.

—MaryPaul Yates

Steve Graves

Otis Events

At the Otis Library and Museum during May will be an art exhibit by Alice Gage. A photographer saw some of her paintings and asked Alice to paint his photos. The show was at the Lee Library. Alice then joined the Housatonic Valley Art League, the Torrington Art League, and the Dalton Art League. She paints in pastels, oils, and watercolors. Alice is living her dream. Her show is titled *A Little Bit of Me*.

Tag Sale: May 28, from 9 to 3 p.m., at the Otis Ridge parking area on Route 23. Space rental is $10 per table for Otis residents and $15 for non-residents. Call 269-4008 for information.

The Otis Library Summer Crafts and Country Fair seeks artists, craftsmen, and other non-food vendors for their annual fair on Saturday, July 9, from 10 to 3:30 p.m., rain or shine. The fair is held on the lawn in front of the Otis Town Hall on Route 8 in the Otis village center. The fair features about fifty-five quality vendors from throughout the northeast. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis and sells out fast. The cost is $40 per space (bring your own table) before June 1 and $45 after, if space remains. Send payment, email address, phone number and product information to The Otis Library, 48 North Main St., Otis, MA 01253. For more information, call the Otis Library at 269-0109.

Council on Aging
Sun, Activity, more Community

Balance, Strength, Mobility—Another session of exercise classes with Elaine Mack will run for five Mondays from April 25 thru May 23, from 1 to 2:15 p.m. at town hall. The cost for the five classes is $25, payable to the Council on Aging.

Cards—Tuesdays, 12:30 to 3 p.m. at town hall. Duplicate bridge is active—substitutes or standbys are welcome. An instructor is available for beginning and intermediate bridge if there is an interest and the day and time can be coordinated. Pitch continues and players are welcome.

Foot Care—Jane Kelley, R.N., will be at town hall on Thursday, May 12, 9 to 11 a.m. to check feet, trim nails, educate, and offer references as needed. The cost is $25. An appointment is necessary.

Information—On Wednesday, May 25, the council will have its regular meeting at 10 a.m. At 11 a.m. Jane Apkin will talk about "Seniors Helping Seniors," an agency that connects seniors seeking job opportunities for seniors with seniors needing services. Q & A to follow. Please join us.

Hillstead Museum—Friday, June 10 is our date to visit this beautiful museum and grounds in Farmington, CT. Our guided tour is set for 11 a.m. Art, collections of glass, silver, and beautiful furnishing are part of this museum. A sunken garden can be explored. Depending on response, we may have to arrange for more transportation, so an early response is necessary.

Update—The Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation continues its usual service, Monterey to Great Barrington on Thursday, or as needed for seniors and disabled people. A van will now also go to Lee and Pittsfield, primarily for medical appointments, on Tuesday and Friday. For an appointment, call 528-4773.

We welcome your interest and participation. For appointments, questions or a seat at an activity, call Kay Purcell at 528-9151 or the council at 528-1443 ext. 247.

—Kay Purcell

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local References *Sliding Scale*

with

KIT PATTEN

Lotus Palm School Certified

"The best massage I ever had." –E.D., Monterey

413-528-3798

HTR

Hill Town Recycling

413.854.8866

Residential Recycling & Waste Removal at Your Curb or Doorstep

P.O. BOX 46 • SANDISFIELD, MA 01255 • HILLTOWNRECYCLING@GMAIL.COM

Monterey Library Notes

It's not too early to start thinking about summer programming at the library. Magician Jim Snack will start our Saturday morning programming on July 2, at 10:30 a.m. He entertains the adults as much as the children. Don't miss him or any of the other performers this summer.

Saturday, July 30, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. is our annual book sale. We would really appreciate any donations you might have. We don't accept damaged or mildewed books, foreign language books, textbooks, or magazines. Please be sure to get them to the library by July 15 so we have time to sort them properly. Make sure to come to the sale to find more bargains to fill those shelves you just emptied!

Don't forget to check out our catalog online. If we don't own an item but you can find it on the CWMARS catalog, you are only a click away from having it sent to the Monterey Library. If you can't find it in CWMARS, try the Commonwealth Catalog. That takes a few more clicks, but you can do it from anywhere with internet access. If you can't find it there, just email montereylibrary@gmail.com or come in and ask us directly. There is another route to go, but it is sent out from the library and not the patron. If you let us know, we may be able to find it and have it sent here. Don't forget that it may even be available to download. We can't always get everything, but we like to try!

—Mark Makuc
MontereyMassLibrary.org

BOOK$ THAT BALANCE

Books That Balance

Bookkeeping Services

Darlene Balestro

10 Stevens Lake
Great Barrington,
MA 01230
413.528.3944
413.446.4547
booksthatbalance@yahoo.com

intuit Certified ProAdvisor QuickBooks

The Sapsuckers Are Back

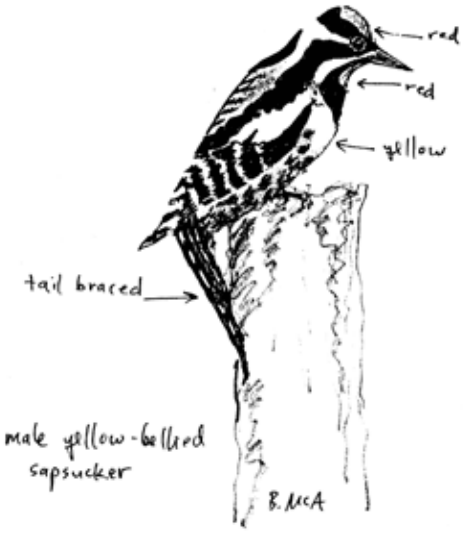
In the middle of April we heard the first yellow-bellied sapsuckers drumming in the woods. These are woodpeckers. They peck wood as do the other sorts of woodpeckers here: downy woodpeckers, hairy woodpeckers, pileated woodpeckers, red-bellied woodpeckers, and flickers. Some of these species are with us all winter and some come north about now, when the living in these parts gets easier. We can hear year-round woodpeckers peck wood in the winter, but they do it looking for a meal. The sound is purposeful, like a working hammer or an axe. When spring comes, we can still hear this socking away as the various woodpeckers excavate for something to eat, or maybe dig out a nest cavity, but most of them also become drummers, and this is a very different sound. This carries a seasonal message, sometimes to do with love and sometimes with territory. To a bird, and to many another creature, these two concerns are not easily separable.

We hear the sapsuckers drumming in the spring about the time we are packing away our own sap-getting gear. We drilled holes in the sugar maples weeks ago and caught the sweet sap for making into syrup and sugar which we can store up and enjoy anytime, all year. If we were true foragers, like the birds, we would be tapping the trees now, making neat rows of holes, so we can drink sugar. If we were yellow-bellied sapsuckers, according to one expert, there'd be 246 different native species of trees we might be tapping, not just the sugar maples.

Orchid Blossom
Healing Arts
Classical Acupuncture
Zen Shiatsu

Lauren Paul, Dipl. Ac.
Licensed in CT and MA
Call for an appointment
413-258-4296

If you see little holes in a tree and wonder who made them, notice if they are about 1/4 inch across and lined up in tidy rows. If so, it was the sapsucker, and these holes were drilled for getting sap, not for drumming. Sapsuckers have special tongues, shorter than those of the other woodpeckers. Other woodpeckers sock holes into trees in order to find insects in there, usually in larval form. Once the hole is deep enough, they send their long tongues far into the hole. The tongue has a barbed end, and a sticky saliva coating, which help extract the insect. A sapsucker, though, has a shorter tongue with a brushy end, which draws out sap through capillary action. Some writers are sure that the birds also do "suck sap."



Besides socking holes into trees, sapsuckers drum on trees, also many other resonant instruments such as road signs and metal gutters. Their distinctive beat is first regular and rapid as in "bang!bang!bang!" and then the pattern finishes off in a slowdown or *ritardando*. The whole riff is like this: bang! bang!bang!bang! bang..... bang.....bang.....bang! Rapid thumps followed by slower ones. The purpose, the message? It is two-fold: "I am here, this is me, this is my place not your place! Unless of course you are a member of the other sex, in which case, "I am here, this is me, so come on over!"

In Massachusetts, sapsuckers arrive in the middle of April. Those who stay to raise a family lay their eggs by the middle of May, but some are just passing through and head farther north to Canada for breeding. We find very few sapsuckers here in winter. Most go at least as far as the southern United States, or even to the Caribbean and South America.

Once there are babies to feed, many birds look for the highest protein around, which means insects. Sapsuckers are said to deliver sweet sap to their young, as well as insects. Some of these they find on trees, under rough bark, and some they catch in the air. This is known as "hawking." In general, the diet of the sapsuckers is about half animal food and half wild fruits and the inner bark, or cambium, of their many kinds of sap-producing trees.

In his *Birds of New York, (*1914), New York State Ornithologist Elon Howard Eaton gives this marvelous description of a sapsucker visiting several trees for fresh sap, and then for fermented sap:

"I have frequently watched a Sapsucker which had tapped at least a dozen trees in the same immediate vicinity, each one of which he visited in turn, lapping the sap from all the holes with his brushy tongue and then passing on to the next by merely casting himself backward from the trunk and soaring with one swoop to the next tree without a stroke of his wing, working up this trunk and passing on to the next in the same way until he had completed the loop. As the spring advances and the weather becomes warm, the sap often begins to ferment. I suspect this is the reason the Sapsucker is so frequently found stupefied by feeding on too great an abundance of the liquid. On several occasions I have seen a Sapsucker so gorged with fermented sap that he allowed himself to be picked up in the hand and I have seen one alight on the clothing of a bird student and climb up his outstretched arm without seeming to realize that he was on a man instead of a tree."

The yellow-bellied sapsuckers are monogamous and return to the same nest holes year after year. They are noisy and endearing, and though they are with us now, we won't see them at our suet feeders like the other woodpeckers. They prefer sweets. We can hear their drumming and know what it's about. Maybe they are listening to us, too. The early Massachusetts state ornithologist, Edward Howe Forbush reports them tapping on telephone wires and then listening to the vibrations.

— Bonner McAllester

Boys' Night Out

It is a simple silver bracelet adorned with thirty small round charms, each inscribed with the name of one of the boys who worked on the Woodburn Farm. As Richard Hardisty, Shel Fenn's nephew, passed around Bea Fenn's bracelet, each of the "boys" seated at the table looked for the charm with his name on it. They had gathered at the library to tell poignant and sometimes hilarious stories of working on the farm and the tremendous influence Shel and Bea had on each of them.

The evening got started with watching a 1986 video of Shel being interviewed by a student of Paul O'Brien. Paul, who joined us for the storytelling event, and Mary Ellen, lived at Woodburn for a few years and now live in Sheffield. In addition to unearthing the old video tape, Mark Makuc also found a box containing copies of Shel Fenn's poetry, which is beautifully illustrated by Mary Ellen. (Copies are available for the taking at the library.) Turns out Shel Fenn was a real enigma—strong, straight forward, soft spoken with a propensity for hard work—but he was also a poet and voracious reader. From listening to the stories of the Woodburn Boys we know that Shel and Bea not only touched the lives of many, but also had quite an impact on the town of Monterey.

Laraine Lippe sums up the experience, "I really enjoyed the Woodburn Boys event on Saturday. . . so glad I was able to go. It was heartwarming to hear all the stories. I never knew anything about Woodburn or about the Fenns. What a wonderful couple, and what generosity of spirit!"

To learn more about Shel Fenn and the Woodburn Farm, purchase a copy of *Monterey: A Local History* for $20, with $10 going to the library. And enjoy another evening of storytelling on Saturday, May 21, from 7 to 9 p.m., when we will hear about how the formation of the Monterey Land Trust, along with an outpouring from townspeople, helped to save Woodburn Farm.

—Wendy Germain

ॐ

Laraine Lippe

Storytelling night in the Knox Gallery room at the library with the "Woodburn Boys" seated left to right: Jay Amidon, John Makuc, Mick Burns. Standing is Bob Annelli, Seated is Richard Hardisty, Peter Brown, David Brown, and Mark Makuc.

Mad Scot

Small Engine Repair

Lawn Mowers
Tractors
Tillers
Chain Saws
Snowblowers

Many years' experience on all types of small engines.

Chains and blades sharpened.

Don Clawson
Box 26
Monterey 01245

Pickup and delivery.
Local service.
Reasonable rates.

(413) 528-3257

April Contributions

The *Monterey News* sincerely appreciates the response to our annual appeal. It is our only appeal to our readers who receive the paper each month through the mail or electronically.

Usually we thank everyone by name in the May issue. However, this year our treasurer, Steve Pullen, and his wife, Sally, decided to abandon us and take a six-week road trip out west. A small group is making their way through the grocery bag of contributions to compile a list, and we'll be thanking you by name in the June issue.

Longstanding quality craftsman
timberframe homes / barns
restoration / classic stone
custom furniture design

Eric Pedersen Construction
413-528-3594 / 822-1510
30+ yrs in & around Monterey
eric7inc@gmail.com

CSL#089323 / HIC#144849 / reg. MA Sawyer

From the Meetinghouse
Our Dependable Earth

When I first traveled as an adult on my own, Mexico beckoned, and Europe, then South America. Sometimes people I knew called me to visit. Other times it was simply, as the realtors say, location, location, location. But in both circumstances, as well as at home, I was always conscious of where I stood on the earth.

The years I lived in Manhattan, I stayed aware that I was living on an island. I thought it would be my home forever. Then in the 1970s I accepted an invitation to northern California. The last day of my trip included time in the redwoods. When I stepped off the plane the next afternoon—this was back when "getting off the plane" meant walking down a flight of moveable stairs onto the tarmac before entering the terminal—the stench overwhelmed me. I'd arrived home on the third day of New York's first city-wide garbage-collectors' strike. That cracked my cosmic egg, and I began to explore where else on the planet I might call home.

That wasn't my first encounter with the impact human activity can have on the earth, the air, the water. I grew up on the south shore of Lake Erie; was in college when fishing was banned since the lake was then believed to be "dead." One crystal-clear January morning in 1968, I drove over the bridge from Niagara Falls to Grand Island and caught a glimpse of the city in my rear-view mirror. It was shrouded in a geometrically perfect dome made of a sickly reddish gray-blue miasma. While I lived in Manhattan, scientists had already identified a certain kind of slug whose presence indicated significantly polluted water. One morning the *New York Times* reported that the area at the foot of the island where barges dumped the city's debris was now too polluted for that slug to survive. That was more than thirty years ago.

There are folks who find in our current situation not only a cry for help from our dependable earth but also a cause for hope. One of them is Great Barrington resident John Bell, who considers climate change an opportunity for both contemplation and action. (Search for "Earthholder, John Bell.")

On Saturday, May 14, John will present "Climate Change as a Door to Awakening, a Day of Mindfulness," at the Friends' Meetinghouse on Route 23 in Great Barrington, sponsored by Berkshire Mountain Laurel Sangha. For more information, or to register, email to berkshiremountain-laurel@gmail.com

—Mary Kate Jordan

G. E. MUNSON
SATELLITE &
PROPERTY CARE
DISH NETWORK/DIRECTV
SATELLITE INTERNET
HD TV ANTENNA SYSTEMS
HOME THEATRE &
SURROUND SOUND SYSTEMS
SEASONAL CARETAKING
YEAR-ROUND MAINTENANCE
OF YOUR HOME & PROPERTY
call George (413) 258-4887
email: munsonsat@aol.com
P.O. Box 518, Monterey, MA 01255
(fully insured)

Karen Shreefter Landscape Design
Working with clients to create
captivating landscapes & gardens

413.528.1387
karen@kslandscapedesign.com
www.kslandscapedesign.com

In Rememberance
Stefan Grotz

Stefan Grotz, a local attorney and former Monterey selectman, died on April 6 of complications related to a recent cancer diagnosis.

Stefan was born in 1938 in New York City and grew up in the West Village with his parents, Paul and Dorothy Grotz. He attended The Little Red Schoolhouse and Elizabeth Irwin High School before earning his B.A. in English and History at Cornell University. He received his M.A. in English from the University of California at Berkley and his J.D. from Western New England College School of Law.

Always living life to the fullest, Stefan traveled extensively in the 1960s and tried his hand at many jobs. including as a farm foreman, house painter, stone mason apprentice, gardener, model, commercial fisherman, lifeguard, cancer lab technician, educational advocate, and doughnut maker to name a few; his was a storied life.

He was also involved in the Free Speech Movement of the 1960s and remained thoughtful about issues of social justice throughout his life. In the 1970s he worked as a consumer advocate, writing several syndicated newspaper columns, participating in weekly radio discussions and working for the Extension Service in consumer protection while attending law school at night. He was absolutely passionate about the law and his community; he served as a Monterey selectman for three terms and ran a solo law practice up until recently.

He always counseled his daughters to choose careers that they loved and would always follow this with, "I love what I do." Stefan was a lifelong athlete and was once quoted by a local paper as saying, "Everything I learned in sports is what I am today."

Monterey Community Center News

The interior is taking shape—throughout the house the wallboard is up, and all is painted except the second floor ceilings. In late April Annie Shatas put down the ceramic tile flooring in the kitchen and bathroom, and once the water line is replaced from Main Road, we'll be getting the plumber back to get those rooms functioning.

As we still need about $40,000 for the final work and materials for the Wilson-McLaughlin House, we ask for your support of our request for funding at town meeting on Saturday, May 7. Most of the final work will be done by skilled volunteer hands; we are only able to do so much now until we have more money to purchase flooring, siding, finish lumber, etc.

Our annual tag sale is planned for Saturday, July 16, so please start saving your suitable items for us, and keep a lookout for drop-off dates when we post them later in the spring. Plan to come by on that date to find the things you've been looking for.

The first event of this year's summer program will be a bird walk on the community center property on Saturday, May 14, from 10 am to noon. Local birder Joe Baker will lead the walk, which will explore not only the identification of the migrant and nesting species we see and hear, but also their habits, lifestyles, and habitats. Bring your binoculars. The cost is a $10 donation to the Monterey Community Center. More events will be announced in the June issue.

There is something new starting in late June on the property—a farmer's market every Tuesday afternoon from 4 to 6 p.m. Stay tuned for more announcements. In addition, a small number of community garden plots are available—please call Chris Goldfinger at 528-4367.

Thanks for your continued support and interest—keep track of developments at the website ccmonterey.org or on our facebook page.

—Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House

ॐ

Bonner McAllester

April 23 saw the first of the Monterey Community Center open houses to give people a good look and to answer questions about the progress. About thirty people stopped in. In front are Laurie Shaw and Rebecca Bruno. Behind them, left to right, are Kathleen Trien, Peter Franck, Wendy Germain, and Evelyn Vallianos, speaking with Michael Banner in the back.

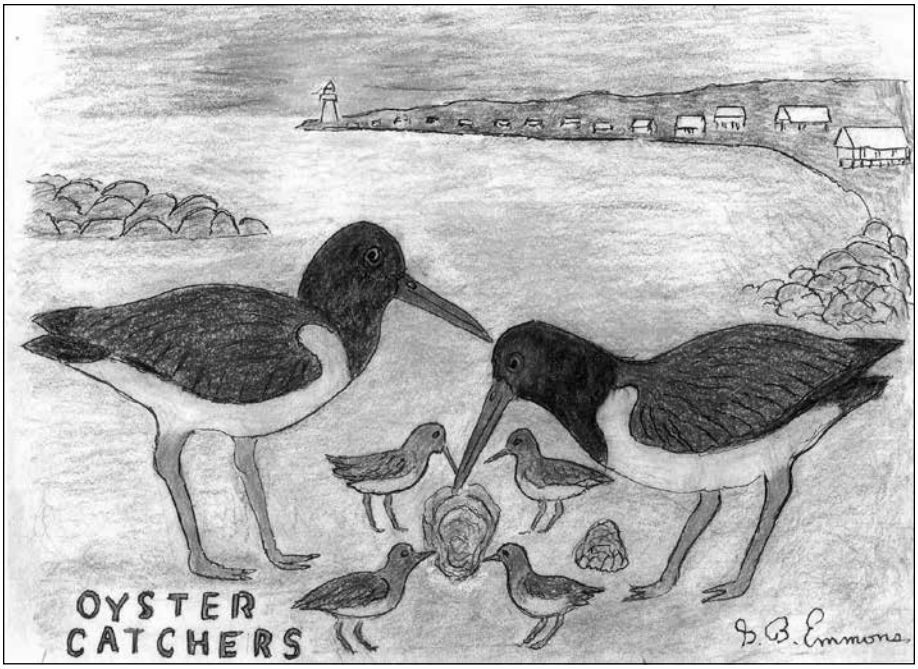
Woodruff Mountain
Landscaping

Whether you are looking to renovate, rejuvenate, or just simply maintain your existing landscape, please contact Woodruff Mountain Landscaping to help you.
We offer a full line of outdoor services and are fully equipped and properly trained to help with any landscape construction project; excavation, stone walls & patios, tree & plant care, and driveway repair, to name a few.

Please call Tom Brazie to further discuss your projects needs.
References and portfolios available upon request.
Proudly servicing our area for over 15 years.

413-229-2919
woodruffmountain@aol.com

Shore Birds and Oystercatchers



Our new home on Crescent Beach in Mattapoisett is a shore-bird watching mecca that also features migratory waterfowl including ospreys, gulls, swans, herons, and oystercatchers. Never having seen oystercatchers before, I found them here at the mouth of a tidal marsh inlet that floods at high tide and drains at low tide, exposing mud flats rich in their usual diet of clams, bivalves, and oysters. They are very distinct, with a black head, long red bill and matching red eye, brown body, and long yellow legs for wading.

They feed by opening shells with a hammering technique, stabbing through the abductor muscles of a closed oyster, making a hole, then opening their bill to pry apart the shell. This technique is learned by the young, usually no more than four in number, who emulate their parents and depend on their help for about sixty days. The oystercatcher population has been increasing since the 1960s, and they are beginning to be seen along the coast lines of New York, as well as far north as Mattapoisett, Massachusetts. They are very eye catching.

Even though they often appear very tame, the National Audubon Society cautions against approaching too close, especially to take pictures. They nest in a shallow depression on a little mound of sand on open beach above the high tide mark, and like similar ground-nesting birds, are very flighty around their nest, or hatchlings. For instance, the killdeer plover on Gould Road will feign a broken wing to distract the attention of an intruder. The woodcock at Lowland Farm will pick up each egg or young chick between her legs and, flying low over the ground, move them to a nearby secret location.

Other species of similarly endowed shore birds found elsewhere have fancy titles such as dowitcher, stilt, greater and lesser yellowlegs, willet, and whimbrel. Most people first see whimbrels in mid-to-late summer when they migrate south from their arctic breeding grounds. In the fall you may see young in juvenile plumage, or adults in transition between summer and winter plumage. A very few species of shorebirds make up about 80-90% of what you typically see.

My usual afternoon constitutional takes me a mile or more in either direction along the shoreline to marshy tidal areas. When I'm birdwatching or observing wildlife, my environmental awareness is often a learning experience, but always with Berkshire farmland, forest, and fresh water aquatics as reflective frames of reference. My impression of the Crescent Beach sunset is just as meaningful as the next sunrise, because another adventure to write about is just a day away.

—George B. Emmons

Alarm Response - Security Checks
Key Holder - Property Management
Residential - Commercial
KMB
HOUSE CHECKING
UNLIMITED
Kristopher M. Balestro
10 Stevens Lake
Great Barrington, MA 01230
kbalestro@aol.com
home 413.528.3944
cell 413.429.7094

Community Potluck May 18

Bernie Drew

A small but enthusiastic group listened to Eddie O'Toole talk about enduring accomplishments with a group of volunteers in Honduras and Nicaragua at the April Potluck. We wish him well in his ongoing efforts and thank him for his presentation.

For the May potluck, we have local noted historian Bernard Drew, who has written many books about the Berkshires. He will be speaking on Devanny's Bluff, the firestone quarry, and how the Appalachian Trailcrept into Monterey.

The next Monterey community potluck dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on Wednesday, May 18, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce

April Wildlife Report

Toward the end of March, Dominic Stucker wrote to say his sons Maddox and Tiegen wished to report a barred owl near their home, with whom they have had some "hooting exchanges." They have also seen a red-tailed hawk at the cemetery on Blue Hill Road and their first ever bobcat, crossing Tyringham's Main Road. "It was big and in no hurry and paused momentarily to have a good look at us." The boys also saw two otters in Hop Brook, where Monterey Road crosses the brook in Tyringham, and many turkey vultures for some weeks, in various places, including Gould Farm.

Ed Salsitz on Beartown Mountain Road was walking north from his house and saw a turkey vulture fly up from the road into a tree. He then came to the carcass of a porcupine, probably hit by a car, now partly devoured by the turkey vulture, mainly in the less quilly areas of the body.

Steve Snyder saw a young milk snake in the basement in late March, also a "golden fox" in the garden. There were turkey vultures above the Big Y back then and otters in Rawson Brook. Steve saw a bobcat on Sylvan Road and was hearing wood frogs in Copake Falls at that time, but no peepers so far. He reported many kinds of birds: wood ducks, common mergansers, red-winged blackbirds, robins "by the herds," wild turkeys, and a pileated woodpecker.

In early April I saw a big herd of elk in a pasture, but I was on Amtrak pretty far west. Later, south of there, I saw two roadrunners cross the road, and then heard an elf owl chattering much of the night in a big saguaro near my tent. Back home in the middle of the month, the blue birds showed up in our orchard on the fourteenth of April, and tree swallows the very next day. About this time our neighbor Cora Baker alerted us to bloodroot blooming, though it was oddly shorter than you would think and its leaves were tightly furled around the flower stalk. Was this because it's been so dry this spring?

In mid-April, Liz Goodman saw a bear cross Route 23 a bit west of the town center and a porcupine in a field on Tyringham Road. At a recent *Monterey News* board meeting, five of the seven people present reported having recently seen foxes. Of the other two, one had seen a pair of giraffes on a wall in Springfield. This is the same observer who wrote last month in the *Monterey News* of "iron ducks."

Felix Carroll saw a mountain lion bound across the road in December, not far from Monterey, past the cemetery on Stony Brook Road, where it crosses Muddy Brook.

Here along East Hupi Road we have our first blackflies starting to bite us, and I saw my first red velvet mite in the garden, making a run for it across the dirt. I think I rousted him out by pounding in a stake that says "Pole Beans." I haven't planted them yet, just getting things laid out. The first white-throated sparrow was singing "Sweet, sweet, Peabody, Peabody" after sunrise, 20 April.

Thanks, everyone, for sending me your wildlife news. 528-9385 or bonnermca@gmail.com.

—Bonner McAllester

Bidwell House Museum

Become a Museum Guide!

If you would like to learn about Monterey colonial history, enjoy meeting people and giving tours, please consider becoming a guide at the Bidwell House Museum! The time commitment is completely up to you—once a month, once a week, whatever works for you.

Season Opener Concert

The museum will open for the season on Memorial Day weekend. Tours will begin on Monday, May 30, at 11 a.m. The museum is opening with a concert and reception on Sunday, May 29, at 3 p.m. Singer-songwriter Diane Taraz will perform "She Named Him Adonijah," a selection of songs from the eighteenth-century in celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Adonijah Bidwell.

In 1716, Mrs. Thomas Bidwell of Hartford, Connecticut, was safely delivered of a boy. Join Diane Taraz as she explores the world in which little Adonijah grew up, and his eventful life as a teacher, shipboard chaplain, husband of three, father of four, minister of Township No. 1, and revolutionary patriot. Music will be our guide, as folk songs tell us much about life in Britain's American colonies. Diane wears the clothing of the time and accompanies herself on an instrument similar to the now-extinct English guitar played by colonial ladies.

A Pittsfield native, Diane has long made her home in the Boston area, performing extensively throughout New England. She is the director of the Lexington Historical Society Colonial Singers and a longtime member of the Gloucester Hornpipe and Clog Society, a traditional band that plays maritime, celtic, and colonial music. Her recordings are available through her website at dianetaraz.com.

Refreshments will be served to toast the opening of the season. All are invited to join. There is a suggested donation of $15 (free for members of the museum) for attendance at the concert.

300th Birthday Party

Save August 13 to celebrate Adonijah Bidwell's birthday.

The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road. For more information, please call 528-6888 or go to bidwellhousemuseum.org.

—Barbara Palmer
Executive Director

Harvest Barn Bakery
***at* Gould Farm**

Sat & Sun 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(Self-Serve Wed - Fri 9:00 - 3:00)

Gould Road in Monterey
413.644.9718

GOULD FARM
Harvesting Hope • Promoting Recovery

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, May 2 and 16, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, May 10, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Wednesday, May 11 and 25, at 10 a.m.

Free wellness clinic: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, May 12, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, May 12, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, May 4, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursday, May 12 and 26, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Mondays, May 2, 9, 16, and 23, at 8:30 a.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Budget Informational Meeting: Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m., town hall.

Town Meeting: Saturday, May 7, at 9:30 a.m. at the firehouse.

Town Elections: Tuesday, May 10, from 12 noon until 7 p.m., at the firehouse.

Office/Town Hall Closings

The town hall will be closed on Monday, May 30, for Memorial Day.

The administrative assistant's office will be closed on Friday, May 27. Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

The Board has had many conversations of late regarding the transfer station and the costs associated with tipping and hauling fees. Beginning May 1 we will be increasing fees for the disposal of many items beyond normal household trash (see chart below). There were discussions on changing the hours to save money, but after much deliberation and input from citizens, haulers, and the transfer station employees, we agreed that the hours will remain the same. The price for FY17 stickers will increase to $70 and renewal notices should be going out this month.

— Scott Jenssen, Chair
Kenn Basler and Steve Weisz
Monterey Select Board
(scott@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)

For general inquires, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov

Transfer Station Additional Fees beginning May 1, 2016

Mattresses and/or box springs	$20 each
Sofas, overstuffed chairs, sleeper sofas	$15 each
Tables, dressers, desks, bed frames, etc)	$10 each
Appliances (can only be accepted with freon-free certification): stoves, dishwashers	$15 each
Computers, printers, and scanners	$10 each
TVs and monitors	$15 each
Fluorescent Lamps (4' – 8' tubes)	$2 each
Tires (without rims)	$5 each
Small lawnmowers, small snow blowers (gas engine MUST be checked by attendant for gas & oil), small sinks, toilets, storm doors, screen doors, wood doors, grills	$10 each
Water heaters, dryers, large sinks, washers, tubs, file cabinets, exercise equipment, riding mowers	$15 each

Demo Debris

Can ONLY be dumped on SUNDAYS – NO EXCEPTIONS
Trucks larger than a pickup are NOT allowed

¼ yard to ¾ yard	$25
3'x5'x6' Truck bed (1 ¼ yards)	$50 level, $75 over the top
3'x5'x8' Truck bed (2 ¼ yards)	$90 level, $100 over the top

TRYON STONEWORKS
Native Fieldstone Walls | Landscape & Excavation Services

Enhance your landscape. Define your natural space.
Quality and experienced craftsmanship for 25 years

Professional stone & landscape design by Roger Tryon of Monterey, MA

413.528.4091 | berkshiremaple@verizon.net | tryonstoneworks.com

Calendar

Through June 4: Knox Gallery: *Paintings In and Out*, by Richard Kimball. See page 18.

Every Sunday: Adult softball. Batting practice at 10, games 10:30, Greene Park.

Every Monday except May 30: Select board meetings, 8:30 a.m.

Every Tuesday:

Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Cards and Games club, at 12:30 to 3 p.m., at the town hall. See page 19.

April 30:

Informational meeting for FY 2017 budget, 10 a.m., town hall meeting room.

Knox Gallery, 6 to 7:30 p.m., reception for Richard Kimball's *Paintings In and Out*.

Mondays, May 2, 9, 16, and 23: Balance, strength, and mobility training. See page 19.

Tuesdays, May 3 and 10: Stitch'n Time, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Saturday, May 7: Annual Town Meeting, 9:30 a.m., at the fire house.

Tuesday, May 10: Town election by ballot, noon to 7 p.m., at the firehouse.

Thursday, May 12:

Wellness clinic, BVNA, town hall meeting room, 2 to 3 p.m.

Foot care clinic, Jane Kelley, R.N., at town hall on Thursday, May 12, 9 to 11 a.m., appointment necessary. See page 19.

Saturday, May 14:

Fishing Derby, 9 to 10:30 a.m., Berkshire National Fish Hatchery, kids twelve and under. (Next derby is June 11.)

Saturday, May 14: Bird walk, lead by Joe Baker, 10 a.m., Monterey Community Center. See page 23.

Wednesday, May18:

Monterey News deadline.

Community potluck supper, 6 p.m., Bernie Drew. At Fellowship Hall in the Monterey church. See page 24.

Saturday, May 21:

Storytelling, 7 to 9 p.m., Formation of the Monterey Land Trust. Monterey Library. See page 21.

Lenox Contra Dance from 8 to 11 p.m., new dancer session at 7:45. Live music by the fabulous fiddle and keyboard duo of Dave Langford and Kate Barnes, with all dances called and taught by Sarah VanNorstrand. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007. LenoxContraDance.org

Monday, May 23: Adult book group meets at 7:30 p.m., *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. All are welcome.

Saturday, May 29:

Bidwell House Museum, season-opening concert, 3 p.m. See page 25.

Sunday, May 30: Bidwell House Museum opens for the season. See page 25.

Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Save the Dates

The summer calendar is beginning to fill. If you have a public event scheduled during the summer months, have it listed in "Save the Dates."

June 10: Hillstead Museum trip.

Starting late June: Tuesdays, 4 to 6 p.m., farmers market, community center.

July 2: Township No. 1 Day

July 16: Community center tag sale.

July 17: Pittsfield Suns baseball game trip.

August 3: Friends of Lake Garfield's MontereyFest

August 13: Celebrate Adonijah Bidwell's birthday at Bidwell House Museum.

August 21: LobsterFest

Precision Autocraft
THE ART OF COLLISION REPAIR
High Quality Body Repair and Finishing

- Complete Collision
- Paint
- Glass Services
- Laser Frame Measuring
- Computer Controlled Estimating and Paint Mixing Systems

413-528-1457
1-800-734-1457

AAA Approved Auto Body Repair

Rt. 7 - 1939 North Main St. Sheffield, MA

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

500 Main St. Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
617 Main Rd. PO Box 63
Monterey, MA 01245

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE
IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

Free Consultation
on any Legal Matter

Evening and Weekend
Appointments Available

PHONE (413) 528-8900
FAX (413) 528-9132

MONTEREY NEWS
PO Box 9
Monterey, MA 01245-0009

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
GREAT BARRINGTON MA
PERMIT NO 95

Change Service Requested

Rick Mielke

Seasonal Caretaking
Professional Year-Round Maintenance of Your House and Grounds

Celebrating over 30 years in business

528-0864

We Return Your Calls
Since 1975 • Fully Equipped • Fully Insured
P. O. Box 211, Monterey, MA 01245

Buying or selling your home in the Berkshires?
Corashire Realty, now in our 50th year!

CORASHIRE REALTY

Nancy Dinan, founder

Deborah D. Mielke
(O) 413-528-0014
(H) 413-528-1871
(C) 413-329-8000
corashirerealty@gmail.com

To see our Monterey Listings please visit
www.corashire.com
Also use our link to view other offerings in MLS.

Copyright © Monterey News 2016
email: montereynews9@gmail.com

Editor.....Stephen Moore
Copy Editor.....Hannah Fries
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Steve Pullen

Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pp. 5, 12; George Emmons, p. 24;
Bonner McAllester, p. 20.

BIZEN

Freshest Sushi Quality Fish • Organic Vegetables
Japanese Estate Sakes • Unfiltered Dessert Sakes

備前

On the Cutting Edge

"Where to Eat Sushi" in the Berkshires.
The New York Times
Gourmet Japanese Cuisine & Sushi Bar
17 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Mass.
413-528-4343
Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30; Sat. & Sun. 12-3:00 • Dinner 7 Days 5-10